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## North Hill Fees to Rise; Hearing Continued

*North Hill*  
Selectmen this week continued a public hearing on fee increases for the North Hill Country Club golf course.

At the first meeting of the public hearing, Recreation Director Gordon Cushing and North Hill Advisory Committee Chairman Tom Rich presented a new fee schedule that increases the costs for all membership dues and for greens fees. The new fees were requested by golf course managers Johnson Turf and Golf Inc.

Cushing said he and the committee unanimously approved the fee increases, which range from \$35 to \$100, with the exception of the junior membership fee increase. Cushing said he was confident that the fees are

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competitive with other 9-hole golf courses in the area.

Rich agreed: "We all feel that these were fair and reasonable" increases, because, he said "I think we have a product that is comparable if not better than courses out there now."

Some of the fee are as follows: the resident family membership would rise \$100 from \$850 to \$950; the resident adult single membership would increase \$35 from \$600 to \$635; the senior adult membership would go up from \$550 to \$585 and the senior weekday membership would increase from \$425 to \$480. All non-resident membership fees would increase too.

Johnson Turf and Golf proposed to increase the junior membership fees from \$125 to \$200, but the North Hill Advisory Committee recommends a \$50 increase only, to \$175. Johnson Turf and Golf owner Doug Johnson said he wants this increase in part to discourage the number of youths who just hang around at North Hill and do not golf.

The greens fees would all rise only \$1 and the golf cart rental fees would not increase at all. Also affected by the price hike are senior and regular coupon books.

Last December, selectmen also voted to increase fees at North Hill. That fee schedule included increases of \$50 to \$100 for all memberships except for juniors and had no hikes in daily greens fees or cart fees. The resident family membership increased \$50 to \$850 and the adult single membership rose \$50 to \$600. All non-resident membership fees increased as well. Greens fees remained at \$11 for 9 holes for weekdays, \$13 for weekends and \$18 for 18 holes on weekdays and \$21 on weekends.

Resident and citizen watchdog Robert Doyle spoke in opposition to the increases. "Why do we have to raise rates each year when it (the course) is all paid off? I don't think it's right," he said.

He was especially against the hikes in the junior and senior memberships. He said the management should set rules that prevent youths from just hanging around the club without playing golf but should not try to accomplish this through higher junior membership fees.

Doyle was also angered because the proposed fees were not published in the local media with the announcement of the public hearing.

Selectmen continued the public hearing on the fees until Dec. 16 because town bylaw requires the recommendation of the Fiscal Advisory before a vote can be taken. Selectmen said they hope to publish the proposed fee schedule before the hearing.